

REVISED

Date: 03/12/2012

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2527,SD2(sscr2705) RELATING TO EDUCATION. Education; Facilities; Pre-plus Programs; Charter Schools

Purpose of Bill: Amends section 302A-1151.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the department of education to give charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the department is considering for closure. In the event that no charter school or pre-plus program accepts an offer to use the public school's facilities, the facilities may be used for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate. Requires the department to identify unused public schools facilities for possible use by charter schools, early learning programs, or for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate. Repeals sections 302A-1506.5 and 302B-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports this bill.

It amends section 302A-1151.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to give the DOE simultaneous reasonable consideration to make all or portions of the facilities available to charter schools and pre-plus programs; provided that the facilities may be used for any other purpose the board deems appropriate.

The closure of a public school could provide the DOE the opportunity to become more cost-effective and efficient. For example, the DOE intends to use a portion of Liliuokalani Elementary School as a data center. The DOE staff has located offices in private building for which it is paying rent. The DOE may

move some of these personnel from private office spaces to Liliuokalani Elementary School resulting in a cost-savings to the DOE and to the State. The DOE would like to retain the opportunity to use the facilities of a closed school to improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of its operations.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 12, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2527, S.D.2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Hearing: Monday, March 12, 2012; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2527, S.D.2 is to amend section 302A-1151.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Department of Education to consider allowing charter schools and pre-plus programs to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the department is considering for closure; provided that the department may consider using the facilities for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate; to require the Department of Education to identify unused public schools facilities for possible use by charter schools, early learning programs, or for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate; and to repeal sections 302A-1506.5 and 302B-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as it allows for expansion of the pre-plus program and early learning opportunities for four-year olds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



SB 2527 SD 2
RELATING TO EDUCATION
Committee on Education

March 12, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** SB 2527 SD 2 and its amendment removing language giving charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the Department of Education is considering for closure.

SB2527 SD 2 does not realize the original intent of Act 144. Charter schools have long faced challenges with securing facilities that accommodate their basic needs. Act 144, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, was intended to address this issue by allowing charter schools the opportunity to move into closed public school campuses. Unfortunately, SB 2527 SD 2 continues to afford the DOE the same discretion that has resulted in no closed schools offered to charter schools.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to HOLD SB 2545 SD 2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.